

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 141437Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6426

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, NATO, CA

SUBJ: CANADA'S NATO CONTINGENT

REF: OTTAWA 1757 AND OTTAWA 1766

SUMMARY: QUESTIONED AGAIN ABOUT CHANGE IN CANADA'S NATO
CONTINGENT, TRUDEAU GIVES AMBIGUOUS REPLY. CONTACT WITH
EXTAFF INDICATES THAT THERE ARE OFFICIALS IN GOC WHO VERY
MUCH AWARE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY MANPOWER RE-
DUCTION IN CANADIAN NATO FORCE AND WHOSE VOICE MIGHT BE
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STRENGTHENED BY SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSERVATIVE MP NOWLAN RETURNED TO SUBJECT DURING COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MAY 12, AGAIN PHRASING QUESTION IN UNFORTUNATE ENABLING PRIMIN TRUDEAU TO GIVE AMBIGUOUS REPLY. NOWLAN ASKED IF TRUDEAU "AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT GOING TO THE SUMMIT MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON NATO AT THE END OF THE MONTH WILL PROPOSE ANY CHANGES IN CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO THE NATO FORCE?" ANSWER: "NO". (EVEN IN UNLIKELY EVENT TRUDEAU WERE TO CHOOSE SUMMIT FORUM FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL, HE WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO DO SO SINCE CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW WILL NOT BY THEN HAVE BEEN COMPLETED).

2. MEANWHILE POL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH EXTAFF DEFENSE RELATIONS DIRECTOR MARSHALL, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GOC, IN CONSIDERING NATO OPTIONS IN COURSE DEFENSE REVIEW, WOULD KEEP IN MIND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF MANPOWER NUMBERS AS WELL AS COST-EFFECTIVENESS, MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS, ETC. AMONG OTHER FACTORS, GOC PRESUMABLY WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE EFFECT ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL RECALL EXAMPLE OF UK WHICH, DESPITE RECENT DEFENSE REDUCTIONS, KEPT NATO FORCE AT PREVIOUS STRENGTH. ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT GOC PLANS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NATO ALLIES.

3. MARSHALL STATED THAT HE HAD TAKEN JOURNALIST BEST TO TASK FOR HIS ARTICLE'S IMPLICATION THAT GOC WAS INCLINING TOWARD ALL-AIR OPTION WHEN, MARSHALL CLAIMED, ALL OPTIONS VERY MUCH OPEN. WHILE IT TRUE THAT COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND MILITARY EFFICIENCY WERE AMONG CONSIDERATIONS GOING INTO REVIEW, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE ALSO AT FOREFRONT. POLITICAL EFFECT WITHIN ALLIANCE OF MANPOWER REDUCTIONS, AS WELL AS EFFECT ON MBFR, WOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED IN COURSE OF REVIEW.

4. AS TO CONSULTATIONS, WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE ANY WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER RECOMMENDED DECISION WOULD REPRESENT ANY CHANGE. IF NOT, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS. ANY CHANGE, FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTANCE RECOMMENDATION FOR ALL-AIR OR ALL-LAND NATO OPTION RATHER THAN PRESENT MIXED FORCE, WOULD CARRY WITH IT REQUIREMENT FOR CONSULTATION. AT THAT POINT CONSULTATION WOULD TAKE PLACE, MARSHALL UNSURE WHETHER THIS WOULD BE PRIOR TO REFERENCE TO CABINET OR WHETHER, AND HE THOUGHT THIS MORE LIKELY, CABINET WOULD BE ASKED TO GIVE ITS ENDORSEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO COURSE OF ACTION SUBJECT TO ACCEPTABILITY THEREOF TO

ALLIES FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AN INITIATIVE DESCRIBED AS "CONSULTATION" BY ONE SIDE SOMETIMES IS SEEN BY OTHER AS SIMPLY PRIOR NOTICE OF ALREADY-TAKEN DECISION. HE INSISTED THAT HE AND OTHERS WHOSE VIEWS HE FELT WOULD BE HEARD FULLY INTENDED THAT ANY ASPECT OF DEFENSE REVIEW LIKELY TO AFFECT OTHERS, AND THIS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED NATO, WOULD BE SUBJECT OF GENUINE CONSULTATIONS.

5. COMMENT: IF MAINTENANCE OF MANPOWER SIZE OF CANADIAN NATO CONTINGENT IS OF IMPORTANCE TO US AND NATO, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT VOICES MAKING THIS ARGUMENT WITHIN GOC WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF THEY COULD QUOTE AUTHORITATIVE US AND/OR NATO EXPRESSIONS OF SIMILAR VIEW. EMBASSY WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL IF DEPT AND USNATO WERE TO HAVE ANY PREFERENCE IN ULTIMATE CONFIGURATION OR RECONFIGURATION OF GOC'S EUROPEAN NATO CONTINGENT, I.E. ALL-AIR, ALL-GROUND, OR MIX, ASSUMING SAME, CONTINUING MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS (BUT LESS MANPOWER IN CASE OF FIRST OPTION). PORTER

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